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Spurling, Norman

From: Miller, Robert
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2014 6:52 AM
To: Spurling, Norman
Cc: Panger, Melissa
Subject: FW: Loss report for barn owl from Alameda County
Attachments: P2759.pdf

Another rodenticide incident from California.

From: McMillin, Stella@Wildlife [<mailto:Stella.McMillin@wildlife.ca.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 6:05 PM
To: County Ag Commissioner, Alameda; Daniels, Debbie@CDPR; Bireley, Richard@CDPR; Miller, Robert; Kratville, David@CDFA
Subject: Loss report for barn owl from Alameda County

Hello, Attached is a loss report for a barn owl in Alameda County. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Stella

Stella McMillin
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California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Wildlife Investigations Laboratory
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DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
WILDLIFE BRANCH
WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS LABORATORY
PESTICIDE INVESTIGATIONS
1701 NIMBUS ROAD
RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670
PHONE (916) 358-2954

Lab Number P-2759
N Number N14-040
CAHFS D1401323

Date of loss: January 15, 2014
Species: Barn owl
Listing status: No special status

To: Dennis Bray,
Alameda County Agricultural Commissioner

Report Date: March 24, 2014

Remarks

Investigation of loss of barn owl from Lindsay Wildlife Hospital in Alameda County.

Background

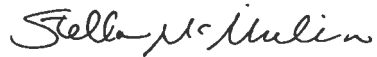
A barn owl, *Tyto alba*, was observed standing up and wobbling in a residential on January 15, 2014, on Sante Fe Avenue in Albany in Alameda County. The owl was dead on arrival to Lindsay Wildlife Hospital that day, where it was observed to have blood in its mouth and be bleeding from its left wing with no signs of trauma. It was frozen before submission to DFW Wildlife Investigations Laboratory to determine cause of death.

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

The owl was submitted to the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory in Davis for full necropsy. The owl was found to be an adult female in good nutritional condition. Blood stains were observed on the beak and left wing and hemorrhage and edema was observed on the wing. Encephalitis and pneumonia consistent with sarcocystis were also observed and presence of the protozoan *Sarcocystis falcatula* was confirmed with immunohistochemistry. Anticoagulant analysis of liver tissue detected the brodifacoum at 0.72 ppm. No other anticoagulant was detected.

Both anticoagulant rodenticide toxicosis and sarcocystis were identified as likely causes of death. Brodifacoum, is a second-generation anticoagulant rodenticide used legally only for the control of commensal rodents. Their presence in the barn owl indicates non-target exposure of wildlife.

WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS LABORATORY



**Stella McMillin, Senior Environmental Scientist
Wildlife Investigations Laboratory**

Approved



**Steve Torres, Program Manager,
Wildlife Investigations Laboratory**

**Cc: Rich Bireley,
DPR Registration**

**Dr. Debbie Daniels,
DPR Registration**

**Robert Miller,
USEPA**

**David Kratville,
CDFA**